

(diplococci consisting of ovoid cells measuring 0.85μ) were discovered also in the purulent discharge from the uterus. This case is the first in which the gonococcus has been found in the peritonitic exudation.

At a meeting of the Basle Medical Society, Dr. Courvoisier and Professor Socin, of Basle, reported two successful cases of cholecystectomy in women aged 28 and 49, suffering from dropsy of the gall-bladder and gall-stones. The patients got up respectively on the twelfth and twentieth day after the operation. According to Dr. Courvoisier, extirpation of the gall-bladder has hitherto been performed eighteen times, with fourteen recoveries and four deaths.

Following Dr. Steiger's recommendation (see JOURNAL, October 23rd, 1886, 787), Dr. J. Rössli, of Pfaffau, has tried perchloride of iron in a case of anthrax in a girl aged 9, who had been living in a veterinary surgeon's house. There were two distinct morbid foci: a well-developed pustule just within the left nostril, with brawny induration and considerable swelling of the upper lip and adjacent part of the left cheek; and an incipient pustule on the tip of the tongue. The parts affected were painted with liq. ferri sesquichloridi every four hours; in all, four applications were made. The lingual pustule disappeared in twenty-four hours. After forty-eight hours there remained only a small, black, dry scurf at the site of the nasal pustule. Similar good results were also obtained by Steiger's method by Dr. Bachmann, of Reiden, in a case of carbuncle.

Dr. Marti, of Bristenbach, strongly recommends the injection of cucaïne (one decigramme in 30 grammes of distilled water) as a preliminary step in cases of hydrocele treated by iodine. In his two cases, after emptying the sac, he first injected the cucaïne solution; and then, about five minutes afterwards, thirty grammes of tincture of iodine. No pain whatever was felt by the patient till the second or third day—that is, till the development of reactive periorchitis.

Dr. Marti has also had excellent results from the internal administration of cucaïne (15 centigrammes in 150 grammes of water, a dessert-spoonful every half-hour) in three cases of excessive vomiting of pregnancy.

At a recent meeting of the Société Vaudoise de Médecine, Dr. de la Harpe, of Lausanne, related a curious case of a woman aged 41, married for six years, who sent for him on account of "intestinal colic." On his arrival he was amazed to find her in labour, the child's head being already low in the pelvis. The patient herself, a primipara, was still more surprised than her attendant, as she was quite unaware of her condition. Two similar cases were communicated by Dr. Heer; one of his patients, however, being an imbecile.

According to the *Emmenthaler Blatt*, June 11th, 1887, p. 5, a boy aged 12, residing at Binningen, recently had two teeth extracted by an unqualified dentist. The operation was followed by violent hæmorrhage, which ended in death, in spite of skilled medical help.

LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Epidemic of Measles.—General Health of the City.—The New Bi-logical Station.—Death of Drs. Oxley and Wilson.

OUR epidemic of measles appears to be gradually subsiding, but the disease still lingers in some of the small townships near the city, as well as in parts of the city itself. In many parts of Cheshire it is reported that measles is very prevalent. At Winsford all the schools have been closed, and the epidemic has been, and still is, a very severe one. In my last communication, I stated that during the week ending April 30th, there were 312 cases with 39 deaths. Since then the figures have been as follows:—Week ending May 7th, 38 deaths; that ending May 14th, 30 deaths; May 21st, 25 deaths; May 28th, 15 deaths; June 4th, 15 deaths; June 11th, 17th deaths; June 18th, 16 deaths; and in the week ending June 25th, 16 deaths. This is not yet quite down to the usual rate, the last-mentioned figures (16 deaths) being 6 above the average.

The intense heat has been experienced here just as in other parts of the country. But, with the exception of the measles epidemic, the health of the city has continued exceedingly good. Some little alarm has been created by the statement that there is an unusually large number of cases of typhus fever in the workhouse hospital. But the disease is, as a matter of fact, less prevalent than usual in the crowded parts of the city. A few cases of heat-apoplexy have occurred in the vicinity, the majority of those affected being volunteers marching out or camping out.

The members of the Liverpool Marine Biology Committee are to be congratulated on having secured a most suitable spot for establishing

their biological station. Puffin Island has been acquired by the Committee. It is a small rocky islet, about a mile from the northern shore of Anglesey, and well known to all Liverpool people as being the place where the ill-fated *Rothsay Castle* was wrecked about fifty years ago. The biologists have actively commenced their labours; an old building on the island is being fitted up as a laboratory, etc., and Professor Herdman has been appointed director of the new station. The shores of Puffin Island, like many other parts of the coast of North Wales, are peculiarly rich in most superb specimens of sea-anemones and nudibranchs. Already many rare examples of the lower forms of marine life have been secured; and in order to study these under natural conditions, it is proposed to convert some of the larger rock pools into natural aquaria.

The medical profession of Liverpool has sustained two very great losses in the deaths of two highly respected practitioners—of Dr. Oxley on the 14th, and Dr. J. H. Wilson on the 21st, of last month. Dr. Wilson had practised here for many years, and was more especially known in connection with the Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital, and as a recent Vice-President of the Medical Institution.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OUR correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication, and, with the constant pressure upon every department of the JOURNAL, brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion. We are compelled to return and hold over a great number of communications, chiefly by reason of their unnecessary length.

THE IVORY SEPARATOR IN SUPRAPUBIC CYSTOTOMY.

SIR,—May I request room for a line or two in reference to the interesting and useful contribution of Mr. Sykes to our experience of the suprapubic operation. I desire to say that it has never occurred to me to recommend "the ivory separator" for lithotomy in children. The value of this little instrument (and it might just as well be made cheaply of bone as expensively in ivory) is found in operations the object of which is to remove vesical tumours, especially in persons with much fat in the abdominal wall. The occurrence of bleeding in a deep wound, the form of which necessarily retains the blood, is a source of great trouble, and augments the difficulty of seeing the tissues involved in the operation. Any non-metallic separator which is slightly hooked enables the division of these to be made without occasioning hæmorrhage from a single artery, and furnishes a safe means of drawing out of the operator's path veins which lie in his way. The handle of the scalpel and a common probe may in part suffice, but are less complete and handy. In a box of "spillikins" (am I quite right in so denominating a well-known game?) I think I could find two or three good separators.—I am, etc.,

HENRY THOMPSON.

35, Wimpole Street, July 2nd.

HAMMER-TOE.

SIR,—The theory supported by Mr. Ellis in his letter in the JOURNAL of June 25th with regard to the origin of hammer-toe is one that I formerly held but have abandoned for reasons that are given in the paper read before the last meeting of the Clinical Society. As this will shortly be printed in full in the *Transactions* of the Society, I do not propose to trespass upon your space by repeating my views. I may, however, point out that Mr. Ellis agrees with me so far as to concede that some cases of hammer-toe occur independently of any defect of foot-covering. These examples he regards as results of "the inheritance of a deformity acquired by one ancestor or more, and transmitted." Although I have no doubt that heredity plays a part in the etiology of hammer-toe (I believe that the cases brought forward in evidence of this in my communication to the Clinical Society were the first that have been recorded), I think it is scarcely correct to refer to the complaint, which rarely if ever develops until after birth, as an example of the inheritance of an acquired deformity. It is not the deformity that is inherited, but the unknown constitutional tendency which leads to the disease of the affected ligaments, and which may also be capable of manifesting itself by the evolution of other morbid conditions besides that of hammer-toe or hallux flexus. The predisposing cause being in existence, it is possible that a local irritation of some kind may be necessary to determine the seat of the actual lesion, but that this determining agency in cases of hammer-toe must be sought in the faulty shape of the foot is contradicted by the facts which I have recently endeavoured to demonstrate.

I am, etc.,

25, Grosvenor Road.

WILLIAM ANDERSON.